



# FACT



## Monthly Newsletter - April 2023

# Making the Forres Area a better place to live, work and visit.

**Forres Area Community Trust** has reached the end of a significant era with our **Development Manager, Debbie Herron**, leaving FACT to move on to a new role after **nearly 10 years** as part of our organisation.



Debbie joined FACT in July 2013 as a Development Worker when there were only 3 part time staff. Since then, there have been significant changes and Debbie became the Development Manager in 2017.

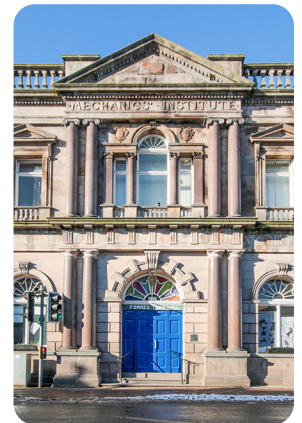
Over the years the Team has grown to a FACT Staff Team of 15 with 3 full time and 12 part time roles. We all work together to:  
**make Forres a better place to live, work and visit.**

**We would like to take the opportunity to thank Debbie** for her tireless enthusiasm to support the Community across the Forres Area and to develop the organisation into what it has become today.



**FACT** was set up to support the Forres Area in the wake of the imminent closure of the RAF Base at Kinloss. As a major employer in the area, this closure had a huge impact on the local community. So a lead organisation was set up to support a partnership of groups that could work together to develop a cohesive plan for development for the future.

**This ethos continues ...**



**FACT** started out by renting an Office in The Tolbooth, and we now own **Forres Town Hall thanks to a Community Asset Transfer** which was completed in 2021. We are continuing to develop the plans to make the Hall a more accessible and multifunctional space for the whole Community.

**Thanks to Debbie's fantastic success rate with Grant Applications**, the funds were secured to buy the Town Hall and to pay for essential repairs.

# TOWN HALL TALES



Forres Town Hall has always been central to the life of the town.

**Town Hall Tales** is a Project that we are running throughout March and April to celebrate the Town Hall and all that has taken place within its walls.

**We can run this Project thanks to more funding that Debbie has secured.**

**Did you see The Silver Beatles play on the Forres Town Hall Stage?**

**Did you meet your partner on the Forres Town Hall Dance Floor?**

We are gathering peoples stories about the Town Hall from over the years.



We have been collecting stories of past events and also hearing about how it contributes to people's lives in the present, through Befriending, Classes, Craft, Coffee Mornings, Forres Online, Social Groups and Events from the Food Pantry to Film Forres.

**We would love to have a display of photographs and mementos as part of this Project**  
If you have photographs or mementos you would be happy to lend to FACT, then you can leave them with The FACT Team in the Office at the Town Hall between 10am – 2pm from Monday to Friday.

There is also a survey that you can use to send us information about your memories:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/29YLL22>

**The Survey link is also in a post pinned at the top of our Facebook Page.**

We have been enjoying collecting the stories so far as we have visited different Groups that meet regularly at the Town Hall and have been recording participant's memories.

If **YOU** have a story that is linked to Forres Town Hall **then please let us know.**

**You can leave a message for us by texting Lindsey on 07916 704662 and she will pass a message on to Margot and Helen who are organising this Project.**

**A Town Hall Hoolie** is planned to celebrate the stories and memories that we have collected. If you would like to know more, please email [lindsey@forresarea.org](mailto:lindsey@forresarea.org)



Recently FACT was awarded £300,000 by the UK Government's Community Ownership Fund as well as £50,000 as part of the allocation of the Scottish Government's Just Transition Fund which was distributed through tsiMORAY & Money for Moray. **These Grants were again thanks to Debbie's foresight and expertise in applying for Funding that support FACT and our many Projects.**

**FACT** have been able to achieve so much **over the last 6 years** with input from Debbie and the Board of Directors who have supported the vision. Here is a BRIEF Summary: establishing **Forres Online & The Cameron Project** which have improved **digital skills & reduced Social Isolation** for residents as well as provide **Volunteering Opportunities**; supporting the **Forres Area Local Tourism Initiative** & developing & distributing a **local Directory of Services**; supporting the organisation of the **Toun Mercat**; taking over the **lease of the Town Hall in 2018** when it was closed by Moray Council & **completing the CAT in 2021**; supporting the **Community during Covid** by **hosting weekly Meetings** for local Support Networks; setting up a **Food Project & a Mental Health Project** during Covid to support residents & businesses; establishing the **ESF Employability Project** including **Digital Training**; introducing a **Volunteer Coordinator** to develop opportunities in the local Area; **extending the Cameron Project** with **2 different Fitness Classes + Fitness MOTs** & an **additional 130 Classes & over 1000 extra participants over 12 months** thanks to a £10,000 Wellbeing Grant.

Debbie has shared the vision & employed Staff effectively to support the Community. Thankfully she is available to answer all our questions in the short term before she starts her new role supporting Communities across Scotland. **A MASSIVE THANK YOU** for all your hard work from the whole Team & for supporting the development of the Forres Area SO WELL.



## JOIN OUR TEAM



### General Assistant

FACT are also looking for a new **General Assistant.**

This is a supervisory role for **11 hours per week**, to be worked flexibly in line with the needs of the business, at **£11.35 per hour.**

This role includes cleaning as well as supervising the Cleaners and external Cleaning Agencies as needed.

### Town Hall Cleaner

FACT are also looking for another **Town Hall Cleaner.**

This is an extra role for **10 hours per week**, to be worked flexibly in line with the needs of the business, at **£10.90 per hour.**

This role will allow the whole Cleaning Team to work together after larger Events if needed.

To apply for these roles, please see email [info@forresarea.org](mailto:info@forresarea.org), phone **01039 674388** or look at our website: [www.forresarea.org](http://www.forresarea.org) for more details.

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

# Dates for your Diary in April 2023

**Forres FREE Online Drop-in Sessions:** Every Tuesday: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Forres FREE Online Drop-in Sessions:** Every Friday: 1.00pm - 3.00pm

**FREE Employability Sessions:** Every Thursday: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Forres Online Outreach:** Dyke & District Village Hall: **Wednesday 26th April**



**Dungeons & Dragons Table Top Games | Minimum Age: 18 years**

**Saturday: 1st, 15th & 29th April in the North Room at 2.30pm**

Laptops, dice, paper & refreshments provided.

**FREE Gentle Seated Exercise & Drumming Class with Esther**

Every Tuesday: 10.30am - 12 noon including a cuppa & a chat.

**FREE Fitness MOTs** - Every Tuesday at 12.30pm, 1.00pm or 1.30pm

**Transform Tuesday - FREE Intermediate Exercise Class with Esther**

Every Tuesday: 2.00pm - 3.00pm

**Email: [esther@forresarea.org](mailto:esther@forresarea.org) to book a place**

**Cameron Project Classes - supported by the Moray Local Action Group**

**FREE Drawing & Painting Classes with Andrea** - starts 6th April | 4 week course

Thursdays: 2.00 - 4.00pm | Minimum age: 18 years

**FREE Gentle Dance Classes with Valentina** - starts 11th April | 6 week Course

Tuesdays: 5.00 - 6.00pm | Minimum age: 18 years

**FREE Yoga Classes with Valentina** - starts 12th April | 6 week Course

**Slow Yoga:** Wednesdays: 10.45 - 11.45am | Minimum age: 18 years

MORAY  
LOCAL  
ACTION  
GROUP

**Booking is essential for all activities.**

Contact us on [info@forresarea.org](mailto:info@forresarea.org) or 01309 674388

See our website for up-to-date listings: [www.forresarea.org](http://www.forresarea.org)

MORAY  
LOCAL  
ACTION  
GROUP



**Coffee Mornings - Saturdays: 10.00am - 12 noon**

**April 1st** - in aid of the Moray Junior Curling Team

**April 8th** - in aid of the Forres OAP Association

**April 15th** - in aid of FACT

**April 22nd** - in aid of the Lossiemouth Entertainment Academy

**April 29th** - in aid of the Forres Gymnastics Club



**Pop Up Pantry in the Lesser Hall**

**Saturday 1st, 15th & 29th April: 10.00am - 12 noon**

**Friday 7th & 21st April: 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

